

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) A method of building a database utilizing a computer in an exchange system to enable ~~the~~ identification of a location of distributed health care information, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving, for a particular patient, metadata including organization information, patient demographic data, and information locator data from each of a plurality of disparate organizations, the information locator data from each of the plurality of disparate organizations including data that identifies a location of at least one health care record stored at a corresponding one of the plurality of disparate organizations;

determining a universal person object corresponding to the demographic data;  
updating the universal person object in accordance with the metadata; and  
storing the information locator data so that the information locator data is associated with the universal person object so as to enable virtually centralized access to the health care records stored at the plurality of disparate organizations.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the determining step further comprises the steps of:

searching the database for an existing universal person object corresponding to the patient demographic data and determining that there is no existing universal person object corresponding to the patient demographic data; and

creating the universal person object corresponding to the patient demographic data.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the determining step further comprises the step of searching the database and locating the universal person object corresponding to the patient demographic data.
4. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of, after the updating step, forwarding the universal person object to a parent server.
5. (original) The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of, after the updating step, forwarding the universal person object to a parent server.
6. (original) The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of, after the updating step, forwarding the universal person object to a parent server.
7. (currently amended) A computer implemented method of locating particular health care information pertaining to a person wherein the particular health care information is stored among a plurality of disparate organizations ~~distributed information~~, the method comprising the steps of:
  - receiving a query from a provider;
  - correlating the query against at least a primary database in at least a primary domain to locate a universal person object corresponding to the person;
  - retrieving locator data associated with the universal person object, the locator data including data that identifies a remote location, among the plurality of disparate organizations, of the particular health care information pertaining to the person;
  - filtering the locator data according to one or more policies; and
  - presenting the locator data to the provider so as to enable the provider to generate a virtually centralized view of health care records distributed among the plurality of disparate organizations.
8. (original) The method of claim 7 further comprising the steps of:

determining if a pointer exists in the primary database, the pointer indicating a remote database in a remote domain; and

if the pointer exists, correlating the query against the remote database in the remote domain.

9. (original) The method of claim 7 further comprising the steps of:  
presenting correlation results to the provider; and  
receiving constraints and parameters from the provider, the constraints and parameters for directing the retrieving of the locator data.

10. (original) The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of:  
presenting correlation results to the provider; and  
receiving constraints and parameters from the provider, the constraints and parameters for directing the retrieving of the locator data.

11. (currently amended) In a network including distributed health care information, a computer implemented method of viewing a record for a particular person from within the health care information, the method comprising the steps of:  
sending a query from a provider application to a primary domain server;  
correlating the query by accessing at least a primary database in at least a primary domain to locate a universal person object corresponding to the particular person;  
retrieving locator data associated with the universal person object, the locator data including data that identifies at least one remote data system from among a plurality of disparate data systems, wherein the at least one remote data system stores one or more health care records for the particular person;  
filtering the locator data according to one or more policies;  
presenting the locator data to the provider application;  
selecting, at the provider application, the one or more health care records from a the at least one remote data system; and

accessing the one or more health care records from the at least one remote data system by the provider application; and

presenting the one or more health care records so as to provide a virtually centralized view of the one or more health care records.

12. (original) The method of claim 11 further comprising the steps of:  
determining if a pointer exists in the primary database, the pointer indicating a remote database in a remote domain; and  
if the pointer exists, correlating the query by accessing the remote database in the remote domain.

13. (original) The method of claim 11 further comprising the steps of:  
presenting correlation results to the provider application; and  
setting constraints and parameters at the provider application, the constraints and parameters for directing the retrieving of the locator data.

14. (original) The method of claim 12 further comprising the steps of:  
presenting correlation results to the provider application; and  
setting constraints and parameters at the provider application, the constraints and parameters for directing the retrieving of the locator data.

15. (currently amended) A computer program product for enabling a server to build a database in an exchange system to enable ~~the~~ identification of a location of distributed information, the computer program product including a computer program comprising:

instructions for creating universal person objects;  
instructions for receiving metadata including organization information, demographic data, and information locator data from each of a plurality of disparate organizations, the information locator data from each of the plurality of disparate

organizations including data that identifies a location of at least one health care record stored at a corresponding one of the plurality of disparate organizations;

instructions for searching the database for universal person objects;

instructions for updating a universal person object corresponding to the demographic data in accordance with the metadata; and

instructions for storing the information locator data so that the information locator data is associated with the universal person object corresponding to the demographic data so as to enable virtually centralized access to the health care records stored at the plurality of disparate organizations.

16. (original) The computer program product of claim 15 wherein the computer program further comprises instructions for forwarding the universal person objects to a parent server.

17. (currently amended) A computer program product for enabling the locating of particular health care information pertaining to a person wherein the particular health care information is stored among a plurality of disparate organizations ~~distributed information~~, the computer program product including a computer program comprising:

instructions for receiving a query from a provider;

instructions for correlating the query against at least a primary database at least a primary domain to locate a universal person object corresponding to the person;

instructions for retrieving locator data associated with the universal person object, the locator data including data that identifies, from among the plurality of disparate organizations, a location of the particular health care information pertaining to the person;

instructions for filtering the locator data according to one or more policies; and

instructions for presenting the locator data to the provider so as to enable the provider to generate a virtually centralized view of health care records distributed among the plurality of disparate organizations.

18. (original) The computer program product of claim 17 wherein the computer program further comprises:

instructions for determining if a pointer exists in the primary database, the pointer indicating a remote database in a remote domain; and

instructions for correlating the query against the remote database in the remote domain.

19. (original) The computer program product of claim 17 wherein the computer program further comprises:

instructions for presenting correlation results to the provider; and

instructions for receiving constraints and parameters from the provider, the constraints and parameters for directing the retrieving of the locator data.

20. (original) The computer program product of claim 18 wherein the computer program further comprises:

instructions for presenting correlation results to the provider; and

instructions for receiving constraints and parameters from the provider,

the constraints and parameters for directing the retrieving of the locator data.

21. (currently amended) Apparatus for building a database to enable the location of distributed information, the apparatus comprising:

means for creating universal person objects;

means for receiving metadata including organization information, demographic data, and information locator data from each of a plurality of disparate organizations, the information locator data from each of the plurality of disparate organizations including data that identifies a location of at least one health care record stored at a corresponding one of the plurality of disparate organizations;

means for searching the database for universal person objects;

means for updating a universal person object corresponding to the demographic data in accordance with the metadata; and

means for storing the information locator data so that the information locator data is associated with the universal person object corresponding to the demographic data so as to enable virtually centralized access to the health care records stored at the plurality of disparate organizations.

22. (currently amended) Apparatus for locating particular health care information pertaining to a person wherein the particular health care information is stored among distributed information, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a query from a provider;

means for correlating the query against at least a primary database at least a primary domain to locate a universal person object corresponding to the person;

means for retrieving locator data associated with the universal person object, the locator data including data that identifies, from among the plurality of disparate organizations, a remote location of the particular health care information pertaining to the person;

means for filtering the locator data according to one or more policies;

and

means for presenting the locator data to the provider so as to enable the provider to generate a virtually centralized view of health care records distributed among the plurality of disparate organizations.

23. (currently amended) A network for providing a virtually centralized view of ~~including distributed~~ health care information distributed among a plurality of disparate organizations comprising:

a provider application operable to issue queries; and

at least a first server connected to the provider application, and containing a primary correlation system connected to a primary database of universal person objects,

the server operable to receive the queries, correlate the queries against the database, and retrieve locator data, the locator data indicating the location of one or more specific health care records from within the plurality of disparate organizations ~~distributed~~ ~~provider information~~.

24. (original) The network of claim 23 further comprising a second server connected to the first server, and including a remote correlation system connected to a remote database of universal person objects.

25. (currently amended) The network of claim 23 further comprising a remote data system containing at least a portion of the distributed health care information, the remote data system operable to connect to the provider application, format, and supply one or more of the specific health care records over the network.

26. (currently amended) The network of claim 24 further comprising a remote data system containing at least a portion of the distributed health care information, the remote data system operable to connect to the provider application, format, and supply one or more of the specific health care records over the network.

27. (currently amended) A programmed computer system operable to build a database in an exchange system to enable a virtually centralized view of distributed health care information by performing the steps of:

receiving metadata including organization information, demographic data, and information locator data from each of a plurality of disparate organizations, the information locator data from each of the plurality of disparate organizations including data that identifies a location of at least one health care record stored at a corresponding one of the plurality of disparate organizations;

determining a universal person object corresponding to the demographic data;  
updating the universal person object in accordance with the metadata; and



storing the information locator data so that the information locator data is associated with the universal person object.

28. (original) The system of claim 27 wherein the determining step further comprise the steps of:

searching the database for an existing universal person object corresponding to the demographic data and determining that there is no existing universal person object corresponding to the demographic data; and

creating the universal person object corresponding to the demographic data.

29. (original) The system of claim 27 wherein the determining step further comprises the step of searching the database and locating the universal person object corresponding to the demographic data.

30. (original) The system of claim 27 further enabled to perform the step of forwarding the universal person object to a parent server.

31. (original) The system of claim 28 further enabled to perform the step of forwarding the universal person object to a parent server.

32. (original) The system of claim 29 further enabled to perform the step of forwarding the universal person object to a parent server.

33. (currently amended) A programmed computer system which is operable to locate particular health care information pertaining to a person wherein the particular health care information is stored among distributed and disparate providers ~~provider's~~ by performing the steps of:

receiving a query from a provider;

correlating the query against at least a primary database at least a primary domain to locate a universal person object corresponding to the person;

retrieving locator data associated with the universal person object, the locator data including data that identifies a remote location of the particular health care information pertaining to the person from among the plurality of disparate providers;

filtering the locator data according to one or more policies; and

presenting the locator data to the provider so as to enable the provider to generate a virtually centralized view of health care records distributed among the plurality of disparate organizations.

34. (original) The system of claim 33 further enabled to perform the steps of:  
determining if a pointer exists in the primary database, the pointer indicating a remote database in a remote domain; and

if the pointer exists, correlating the query against the remote database in the remote domain.

35. (original) The system of claim 33 further enabled to perform the steps of:  
presenting correlation results to the provider; and  
receiving constraints and parameters from the provider, the constraints and parameters for directing the retrieving of the locator data.

36. (original) The system of claim 34 further enabled to perform the steps of:  
presenting correlation results to the provider; and  
receiving constraints and parameters from the provider, the constraints and parameters for directing the retrieving of the locator data.

37. (currently amended ) Apparatus for enabling a virtually centralized view the  
~~location of records from among distributed among disparate organizations information,~~  
the apparatus comprising:

an information locator service for storing and accessing information locator data, the information locator data including data that identifies a remote location of the records distributed among the disparate organizations;

a database of universal person objects, each universal person object corresponding to a person and associated with information locator data in the information locator service; and

a correlation system connected to the database for correlating demographic information against the database to locate a particular universal person object.

38. (original) The apparatus of claim 37 further comprising a person identification service connected to the correlation system for providing a standard interface for receiving the demographic information.

39. (original) The apparatus of claim 37 further comprising a resource access description service for maintaining and applying policy information to information locator data.

40. (original) The apparatus of claim 38 further comprising a resource access description service for maintaining and applying policy information to information locator data.

41. (currently amended) A memory system encoded with a data structure for defining a universal person object for use in correlating queries for records stored among a plurality of disparate organizations, the data structure comprising:

a person class including references to person specific data, the person class further being operable to track historical instances of the person specific data;

a person identifier class associated the person class, the person identifier class including references to one or more person identifiers; and

a domain identifier class associated with the person class for identifying ~~one or more systems~~ at least one of the disparate organizations from which the one or more person identifiers have been received.